AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (c) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that a complaint about unathorised construction/encroachment on Government land and about other points has been received from the residents of Ganga Ram Vatika. The temporary encroachment in the shape of weighing bridge on footpath was removed on 3.12.1996. The unauthorised construction in the shape of shed was noticed in plot No. R1-17, Ganga Ram Vatika. Demolition orders have been passed in this case. Demolition action is taken by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi as per its policy.

(b) No such communication from the Member of the Parliament seems to have been received.

Poverty eradication schemes under minimum common programme

2928. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of poverty alleviation schemes being implemented under the Minimum Common Programme in the country; particularly in Punjab, during 1996-97; and

(b) the other effective measures being taken by Government to eradicate poverty in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The major poverty alleviation schemes being implemented in the country during 1996-97 are (i) The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), (ii) The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY); (iii) The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS); (iv) The Nehru Rozgar Yojana; (v) The Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP); and (vi) The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP). The first three Programmes are being implemented in the rural areas of the country and the remaining three are urban poverty alleviation programmes. The Employment Assurance Scheme is at present being implemented in 3206 blocks of the country in all States and Union Territories excluding Goa, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry. However, it is proposed to extend the coverage of the EAS to all the blocks of the country (including the State of Punjab) during 1996-97 and 1997-98. The details of the poverty alleviation programmes is given at Statement (*See* below).

(b) In addition the Government proposes to strengthen the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) which emphasises necessary allocation to important social development components which affect the quality of life of the people. Special outlays are earmarked in the plans of the State Government for these programmes.

In a recent Conference of Chief Ministers, the provision of seven Basic Minimum Services throughout the country in a time bound manner was endorsed. These basic services are:

(i) Hundred per cent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas.

(ii) Hundred per cent coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas.

(iii) Universalisation of primary education.

(iv) Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor families.

(v) Extension of Mid-day-Meal programme in primary schools, to all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantaged sections.

(vi) Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.

(vii) Streamline the Public Distribution System with focus upon the poor.

An amount of Rs. 2466 crore has been provided as additional Central assistance for States and UTs in the budget for 1996-97 in order to increase the availability of funds for these Basic Minimum Services. However, from this amount Rs. 250 crore has been earmarked for slum dwellers. The remaining Rs. 2216 crore will be addition to the

provisions already made in Annual Plans of States/Union Territories for these seven identified Basic Minimum Services.

Statement

Major Poverty Alleviation Programmes

(i) *Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP):* IRDP is a Centrally Sponsored scheme, being implemented in all the blocks of the country since 1980. Under this scheme Central funds are allocated to States on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State to the total rural poor in the country.

IRDP aims at providing self- employment opportunities to the rural poor through assistance in the form of subsidy and bank credit to enable them to acquire productive assets and appropriate skills to cross the poverty line on a sustained basis. The target group consists largely of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans whose household annual income is below the poverty line of Rs. 11000 at 1991-92 prices. Within the target group there is an ensured coverage of certain categories - SC/ ST 50%; women 40% and physically handicapped 3%. The ceiling for subsidy is Rs. 6,000 for SC/ST families an the physically handicapped; for others Rs. 5,000 in Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) areas and Rs. 4,000 in the non-Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) areas.

Training of Rural Youth of Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) are two important sub-Schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programme.

ii) *Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY):* The JRY is a wage employment programme which has been in operation since 1989. The primary objective of the JRY is the generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed persons in the rural areas. The secondary objective is the creation of sustained employment by strengthening rural infrastructure and assets in favour of the rural poor for their direct and continuing benefits, and for improvement thereby in the overall quality of life for the people in the rural areas. Under the Yojana, funds are allocated among the States/UTs on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State/ UT to the total rural poor in the country. Further, the allocations to the district within each State/UT are made on the basis of an index of backwardness which takes into account the proportion of rural SC/ST population in the district and inverse of agricultural production per agricultural worker, with equal weights. Eighty per cent of the funds allocated to each district are distributed to village panchayats by giving sixty per cent weightage to SC/ST population and forty per cent to total population. The remaining twenty per cent funds are retained at the district level for inter- block/village works.

A small portion of funds under the JRY are allocated for undertaking Special and Innovative projects such as those aimed at prevention of migration of labour, enhancing women's employment, special programmes through voluntary organisations for drought-proofing and watershed development, etc.

iii) *Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS):* The Employment Assurance Scheme was launched on 2nd October, 1993 in 1752 identified backward blocks situated in drought prone, desert tribal and hill areas, in which the revamped public distribution system was in operation. The EAS has now been extended to over 3206 blocks of the country in all States and UTs excluding Goa, Punjab. Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondichery. The additional blocks include the new DPAP and DDP blocks, blocks under the Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) and the flood prone areas of the country. Under this scheme assured employment for 100 days of unskilled manual work has to be provided to those who are seeking it, during the lean agricultural season. The secondary objective is the creation of rural infrastructure and community assets. Water and soil conservation works, minor irrigation works, rural roads, construction of primary schools buildings and anganwadis are permissible works under the scheme. From 1995-96, 50 per cent of the funds have been earmarked for taking up works under watershed development. The Employment

Assurance Scheme is a need based scheme and therefore no Statewise allocations are made. The States can demand funds in consonance with the demand for manual work during the lean agricultural season in the rural areas.

iv) *Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY):* In response to the challenge posed by urban poverty the Nehru Rozgar Yojana was launched by Government in 1989. It is targetted towards persons living below the poverty line in urban areas (i.e. households with an annual household income of Rs. 11850 at 1991-92 prices). The Yojana has three components (a) The Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME); (b) The Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE); and (c) The Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU)

a) *The Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME):* SUME assists the urban poor in upgrading their skills and setting up self employment enterprises. A subsidy of 25% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 5000 for SCs/STs and women beneficiaries and Rs. 4000 for general beneficiaries is provided under this scheme. The remaining amount of the project cost is available from the banks as a loan upto a maximum of Rs. 15,000 for SCs/STs and women beneficiaries and Rs. 12,000 for general beneficiaries. The scheme is applicable to all urban settlements.

b) *The Scheme of Urban Wage Employment (SUWE):* SUWE seeks to provide wage employment to the urban poor by utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets in the jurisdiction of urban local bodies. The Scheme is applicable to all urban areas with a population below one lakh.

c) The Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU): SHASU seeks to provide assistance for housing and shelter upgradation to economically weaker sections of the urban population as well as providing opportunities for wage employment and upgradation of construction skills. The loan upto a ceiling of Rs. 9950 and a subsidy upto a ceiling of Rs. 1000 is provided under the scheme to the beneficiaries for housing/shelter upgradation. This scheme is applicable to urban settlements having a population below 20 lakhs.

v) *The Urban Basic Services for Poor (UBSP)* aims at creating participatory community based structures through which the community participates in identifying normative felt needs and priorities them for implementation. The programmes aims at providing social services and physical amenities to the urban poor through the convergence of various on-going sectoral schemes of various Ministries/Departments. It aims to introduce a pro-poor orientation in the design of new programmes and evolves innovative partnership arrangements to fulfil the community's critical needs. The UBSP is being implemented in 283 towns on an all India basis covering approximately 18 lakh poor beneficiaries.

vi) *Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP):* An integrated scheme for amelioration of poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP) was announced on 15th August 1995. The foremost objective of the new programme is to attack several root causes of urban poverty in an integrated manner with an appropriate strategy involving various sectoral programmes of the Central/State Governments as well as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) by envisaging participatory implementation of the programme with the aim to eradicate urban poverty in the targetted areas by the end of the century. The specific objectives under the new programme are (i) effective achievement of social sector goals; (ii) community empowerment, (iii) convergence through sustainable support system; (iv) employment generation and skill upgradation; (v) improvement of hygiene and sanitation; and (vi) environmental improvement. The programme initially targets the urban poor living in Class-II towns (with a population of 50,000 to less than 1,00,000 which numbers 345 towns as per the 1991 Census.

Job Reservations for Handicapped Persons

2929. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: